

From: Ray Gwinn
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: MICROSOFT ANTITRUST

The Microsoft monopoly goes into areas that I think you guys have never dreamed of. One way the monopoly has shown up in force recently is device drivers.

For example, look at a Dell Inspiron 8100 (I purchased one recently). If I desire to use an operating system other than Windows, like Linux or OS/2, drivers are not available. In the past, drivers would become available for other operating systems because some programmer would develop the drivers and release them.

NOW, the information necessary to develop the drivers is NOT being released. Why would a manufacturer like Dell, Nvidia, and Lucent withhold information that would lead to additional sales of their products??? The answer is they would lose the blessing of Microsoft (and lose sales) if their products could be used by non-Microsoft operating systems.

The best example of this is the so called Windows Modem, the largest number of which is manufactured by Lucent. There is no technical or cost reason why such a device as the Windows Modem should exist. Ordinary modems (which work on any operating systems) work better and were previously costing less than Windows Modems. Any computer you purchase now will probably have a Lucent Win Modem installed. Windows Modem drivers are only available for Microsoft operating systems. I personally tried to obtain information from Lucent that is necessary for driver development, and they refuse to discuss it. Why??? Releasing the information would only result in increased sales. Thus, if I purchase a new computer, I must use a Microsoft operating system, or the modem will not work. Note that if I want to access internet, the modem must be used.

There is nothing about a Windows Modem that makes it unique to Windows. It is just another hardware device.

I can go on and on, but if you are interested, you can contact me.

Raymond L. Gwinn Voice 304-252-2848 Fax 304-255-7902
26 Tanager Place
Beckley, WV 25801